

“We don’t have the exam in Catalan: so you either do it in Spanish or leave”

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

**PLATA
FORMA
PER LA
LLENGUA**

L'ONG del català

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

February 2017
Barcelona

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Introduction

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

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

This document is the Plataforma per la Llengua report on serious linguistic discriminations in the Catalan-speaking territories for 2016. The document is actually an update of the 2015 document, adding a further twenty-two cases to the seventy-seven contained there (corresponding to that year and to the ones reported as of 2007). It should be kept in mind that this is not a comprehensive document that compiles all the cases of severe linguistic discrimination in the Catalan language domain. Many cases are not reported, and many more are silenced by the day-to-day media hubbub or because of its indifference. There are also many cases that never become serious due to the fact that this pro-Castilian system makes many Catalan speakers feel coerced: in face of the more or less overt pressure to which they are subjected in their dealings with the Administration, many Catalan-speakers relinquish their linguistic rights without direct confrontation. Moreover, many Catalan speakers do not even realise that they have certain language rights, accustomed as they are to the “normality” of their language being demoted and neglected by a public administration that they help to support with their taxes.

The cases we present are always related to the supremacist worldview of the Spanish State and the place that the different languages occupy in it: one linguistic community has all the possible rights everywhere and at all possible levels, as provided for by article 3 of the Spanish constitution, while the speakers of other languages only have certain rights in certain territories and in some areas provided for subsequently and expressly by legislation. As we have just said, these twenty-two cases were publicly reported in the media or sent directly to the Plataforma per la Llengua.

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

Linguistic legislation and citizens' linguistic rights

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

Nevertheless, following the end of Franco's dictatorship in 1975, the new parliamentary regime allowed the regions to grant an official status to the autochthonous languages of their territory. The autonomous regions of Catalonia (1979), the Valencian Community (1982) and the Balearic Islands (1983) made Catalan official in the early versions of their Statutes of Autonomy, whereas Aragon (a new region and former state where Catalan is only the native language of part of its territory) only mentioned "linguistic modalities" as a part of its cultural and historic heritage, albeit without actually naming them or affording them any official status or any type of recognition of rights for their speakers.

The current statutes of autonomy of the Balearic Islands and the Valencian Community of 2006 and 2007, respectively, establish a general right to use Catalan language and prohibit discrimination on account of language. This might entail that the administrations, including the central administrations of Spain, should respect their citizens' right to use Catalan. This right was more explicitly established by the Statute of Autonomy of Catalonia of 2006, whose articles 32 and 33 guaranteed the right to use Catalan when addressing all the public administrations with jurisdiction in the region and also upheld the validity of documents written in Catalan for any public purposes. However, the ruling 31/2010 of the Spanish Constitutional Court against the Statute of Autonomy of Catalonia limited these rights and conferred on the Spanish parliament the power to regulate the languages of the state administration without headquarters in autonomous communities with an official language of their own. This ruling meant, in practice, that Catalan speakers don't have a general right to communicate in Catalan with the central administration, which in many cases may refuse to attend to them.

On a lower level, Law 4/1983 on the use and teaching of Catalan in the Valencian Community, Law 3/1986 on language planning in the Balearic Islands and Law 1/1998 on linguistic policy of Catalonia guarantee that citizens in these territories are entitled to express themselves publically and privately in Catalan, both orally and in writing, and thus oblige the administration to take the necessary measures to enforce these rights. However, central legislation has never established the requirement that public officials or civil servants know the autochthonous language of the territory where they work because that would be "discriminatory", even though they are always obliged to know Spanish, the native language of only part of the population. This in fact further impinges upon the rights of Catalan-speaking citizens to deal with this administration in their own language. This situation imposes major burdens on Catalan speakers willing to make use of their rights: Catalan speakers have to expressly ask to be attended to in their own language – slowing down the formalities – if they want to be able to avail themselves of a right guaranteed to Spanish speakers all over the state, irrespective of whether their language is autochthonous or not. Moreover, in the case of magistrates and the police force, who are in a position of authority, the exclusive obligation to know Spanish generates all kinds of problems for the speakers of the other languages of the State. As will be seen, many of the cases of discrimination observed here are prompted by the inequality in the language requirements of the central administration and by the fact that many public servants, and particularly the most powerful ones, do not speak Catalan and make

the most of this imbalance to evince coercive and arbitrary attitudes towards Catalan-speakers.

With regard to the autonomous region of Aragon, where Catalan is the autochthonous language of a strip of land that borders Catalonia, it must be noted that the only official language is Spanish. Nevertheless, the current Statute of Autonomy of Aragon, passed in 2007, provides for the writing of a law that establishes linguistic rights for Catalan speakers, although they are not mentioned as such. Law 3/2013 on the protection and promotion of the languages and specific linguistic modalities of Aragon, which further develops the aforementioned statute, confers the following rights on the citizens of the region: to know the native languages (Catalan and Aragonese), to use them orally and in writing in the domains where they have been historically used, to be educated in them, to use them in the media, to use them in their social and economic life and to communicate in them with the administrations within their area. In practice, and with regard to dealing with the administrations, Catalan speakers in Aragon have the same limitation as other Catalan speakers: they cannot use their language with the general administration outside of their own territory. Moreover, the right to be answered by the administration in Catalan is not guaranteed to them.

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

The Spanish linguistic management described above is clearly at odds with the provisions of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages of the Council of Europe signed by Spain in 1992 and ratified in 2001. The Charter clearly establishes that the administrative authorities with authority in territories with regional languages must use these languages,

must make sure that their agents that deal with the public also use them and must also allow citizens to use these languages in their applications and documents. This treaty has been interpreted restrictively by Spain, which neither ensures that the agents who deal with the general public in Catalan-speaking territories understand Catalan (the most blatant cases are judges and the police) nor allows citizens to use Catalan when dealing with state institutions that do not have their headquarters in Catalan-speaking territory, whatever they have authority there.

Collection of serious cases of linguistic discrimination in 2016

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

Date:	Administration:	Organisation:	Place:	Territory:
16/02/2016	Central administration	Court no. 3 of Igualada	Igualada	Catalonia
Victim: R.P. Family.				
Description of the case: the R.P. siblings filed a complaint with the Courts of Igualada because the official of its court number 3 told them that they had to speak Spanish and refused to help them lodge a complaint during the process of having their mother declared disabled. In the subsequent complaint, the siblings stated that their linguistic rights protected by the regional law 1/1998 of 7 January on linguistic policy, pursuant to which everyone has the right “to be served in either of the two official languages” of Catalonia and to use them “freely in all areas” had been violated. As is customary of the central institutions and more particularly of the legal apparatus of the Spanish State when it comes to the rights of Catalan speakers, the claim was eventually closed. The civil servants excused the official by arguing that his demand was a mere “suggestion” because the judge was from Seville and did not understand Catalan very well, arguing that the family made no such request at the time, while glibly omitting the fact that the siblings were complaining then precisely because they had not been allowed to file a complaint at the time.				
Source: report transmitted to the Plataforma per la Llengua.				

As we shall see repeatedly, we are dealing with a case of linguistic discrimination and defencelessness that are covered up by the institutions of the State and its officials due to the deep-rooted Spanish nationalism in the law, the institutional framework and the Spanish civil service corps. In this case, the pressure exercised upon a citizen was covered up as a mere “suggestion”, which would never have occurred if the language in question were Spanish.

2 (89). A judge humiliates two lawyers and a 6-year-old child for speaking Catalan

Date:	Administration:	Organisation:	Place:	Territory:
15/03/2015	Central administration	Court no. 2 of Olot	Olot	Catalonia
Victim: Marta Alsina and Montserrat Vinyets, lawyers				
Description of the case: the Higher Court of Justice of Catalonia, the highest legal authority in the region, disciplined Ana María Caballero, a magistrate of court no. 2 of the town of Olot and well-known for constantly depriving Catalan speakers of their right to express themselves in their own language. Nevertheless, the Spanish Constitutional Court subsequently overruled the sanction. In the most famous case, Caballero ordered two lawyers to stop speaking Catalan “out of good manners” and because Spanish is a “universal language”, while also labelling them as uneducated. Following the lawyers’ refusal to comply with the demands of Caballero, who also rebuked them for not referring to her as “your Honour”, the magistrate appointed a court official <i>hic et nunc</i> as an interpreter, who had to struggle with Catalan expressions that are difficult to translate. In another case, Caballero had already evinced her dislike of the use of Catalan and ordered a six-year-old Catalan-speaking girl to address her in Spanish, causing the young child a great deal of distress; a psychologist eventually had to act as an interpreter.				
Source: <i>The Higher Court of Catalonia cautions a magistrate from Olot for disrespect for the use of Catalan</i> in El Punt Avui http://www.elpuntavui.cat/punt-divers/article/4-divers/1010229-el-tsic-amonesta-una-jutgessa-d-olot-pel-seu-poc-respecte-a-l-us-del-catala.html				

Once again we are dealing with the absurdities generated by obstructionist Castilian nationalism and its ideal of a linguistically homogeneous Spain turned into a legal doctrine, as well as the problems it all creates to the minority language populations submitted to it. In this case, the fact that Spanish civil servants are not obliged to learn Catalan to work in the territories where this language is spoken generates uncertainty and problems for the locals, who more often than not eventually give in to the demands of the civil servants who, as the very name of “public servants” indicates, should be adapting to the needs and to the reality of the population they serve and not the other way around.

3 (90). The Higher Court of the Valencian Community tacitly confirms that the right to use Spanish takes precedence over the right to use Catalan as it could generate “defencelessness”

Date:	Administration:	Organisation:	Place:	Territory:
25/01/2016	Central administration	Court of first instance number 2 of Benidorm	Benidorm	Valencian Community
Victim: Francisco Manuel Escortell, lawyer				
Description of the case: the lawyer Francisco Manuel Escortell filed a written complaint in Catalan at a court in Benidorm and shortly afterwards received a reply instructing him to have the text translated into Spanish within three days if he did not want to draw out the proceedings, under the provision that the other party to the proceedings could allege “legal defencelessness” because they did not understand the language of the land. When Escortell went to the court to complain, the prosecutor claimed that she lacked the resources to have the documentation translated into Catalan, warning him that if he wanted any notifications to be sent in Catalan the proceedings could be prolonged for more than five years. In view of the situation, the lawyer addressed several legal instances of the Valencian Community until the case was resolved by the Higher Court of the Valencian Community, the highest legal body in the region. While the Court did actually detect “malpractice” by the prosecutor, it ascribed it to “an over-zealous professional attitude” and consequently upheld the idea that the use of Catalan could lead to “legal defencelessness”, which would not be the case if Spanish were used. Meanwhile, the prosecutor dismissed a final appeal by Estornell asking to be addressed in Catalan, arguing that the use of Catalan by the Administration of Justice is discretionary and that they could not be asked to use Catalan if they used Spanish.				
Source: <i>If you file the complaint in Catalan, have it translated or wait 5 years.</i> Levante –EMV http://www.levante-emv.com/comunitat-valenciana/2016/03/29/demanda-valenciano-traduzcalo-o-espere/1397153.html				

Once again we are dealing with the injustice of a discriminatory system that guarantees a favourable framework for one linguistic group at the expense of others. The finding of the Higher Court of the Valencian Community tacitly confirms that the right to use Spanish takes precedence over the right to use Catalan because the latter (and not the former) could generate “defencelessness”. Moreover, it is particularly worrying that the judiciary covers up and protects those involved in linguistic abuses even when faced with explicit petitions by citizens.

4 (91). Citizenship is denied to a Brazilian for doing the examination in Catalan, reaffirming that the only language of integration is Spanish

Date:	Administration:	Organisation:	Place:	Territory:
April 2016	Central administration	Ministry of the Interior	Barcelona	Catalonia
Victim: A.M.S.				
Description of the case: A.M.S., a Brazilian citizen who had been living in Catalonia for more than 10 years, answered the examination to obtain Spanish citizenship in Catalan, leading him to fail the exam and his application for nationality to be rejected. The applicant, who speaks perfect Catalan and Spanish, chose to answer the examination questions in Catalan. Although the authorities claimed that he also lacked knowledge of Spanish institutions, one of the reasons argued to deny him citizenship was that <i>“he writes and reads Spanish with difficulty”</i> , thus presenting Castilian as the sole Spanish language. According to A.M.S., this is the real reason for the rejection of his application for citizenship. In fact, although the rejection document describes a lack of <i>“knowledge of the institutions, customs and adaptation to Spanish way of life”</i> , it only substantiates this with two wrong answers. A.M.S. lodged an appeal with the <i>Defensor del Pueblo</i> , the Spanish Ombudsman, to provide protection in what is essentially a case of blatant discrimination for having chosen to use a language other than Spanish.				
Source: Plataforma per la Llengua website https://www.plataforma-llengua.cat/que-fem/noticies/3124/denegada-la-nacionalitat-espanyola-per-fer-lexamen-en-catala				

This case of discrimination can be explained by the Castilian supremacist foundations of Spanish laws, which establish that the language of Castile is the only official State language. This vision verges on the absurd in cases such as Law 19/2015, which establishes Spanish as the only language requirement to obtain citizenship and obliges applicants to do an examination in this language as proof of “integration”, overlooking the fact that Spanish is not the autochthonous language of many territories of the State.

5 (92). The auditorium of the provincial county council of Alacant does not use signage in Catalan on the façade because too many words are “anti-aesthetic”, although it does use Spanish

Date:	Administration:	Organisation:	Place:	Territory:
21/04/2016	Local administration	County Council of Alacant	Alacant	Valencian Community
Victim: The complainant and all the citizens of the province				
Description of the case: a citizen from Alacant sent a complaint to the Ombudsman of the Valencian Community because the signs on many parts of the façade of the Auditorium of the County Council of Alacant were only in Spanish. Once the complaints had been filed with the Fundació de la Comunitat Valenciana-Auditori de la Diputació Provincial (ADDA), the reply he received was that the reasons why Catalan was not always present in signage was that cramming too many letters onto façades could look “anti-aesthetic”. This takes for granted that the presence of Spanish on signs was imperative, whereas the presence of the native language was not.				
Source: <i>New case of linguistic discrimination of the County Council of Alacant.</i> La Veu del País Valencià http://www.laveupv.com/noticia/19650/%20nou-cas-de-discriminacio-linguistica-de-la-diputacio-dalacant				

Once again we are dealing with a case of supremacism and denial through which the language of a part of the population of the State enjoys ubiquitous supremacy, whereas the language of the other populations that are part of it are second-class.

6 (93). The courts of the Catalan town of Olot reject a document in Catalan “to prevent the legal defencelessness” of one of the parties

Date:	Administration:	Organisation:	Place:	Territory:
22/04/2016	Central administration	Court of first instance of Olot	Olot	Catalonia
Victim: Janina Juanola Coromina, court attorney				
Description of the case: the lawyer of the Court of First Instance number 1 of Olot ordered the plaintiff in a monitoring proceeding case to submit the notice of intention in Spanish. The court proceedings justified this decision appealing to the need to prevent the defence from being jeopardised and to avoid possible legal defencelessness. Because of this, the Court demanded that all the documents submitted in the proceedings be worded in Spanish.				
Source: <i>The court of Olot demands proceedings in Spanish to avert “legal defencelessness”</i> . La Vanguardia http://www.lavanguardia.com/politica/20160421/401264996002/juzgado-de-olot-catalan-espanol-indefension.html?utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=Social				

Once again we are dealing with a case of linguistic discrimination based on the Castilian nationalism that permeates the Spanish legal system and more specifically the Spanish constitution. In this case, the judge in question availed herself of the wording of article 3 of the Spanish constitution, which imposes the obligation to know Castilian throughout the State (be it the native language or not) without mentioning any other language. Thus, according to this standpoint, no one can claim legal defencelessness because they don't know Castilian, although they may do so if someone else wishes to exercise their natural right to use Catalan in their own country. This effectively creates first-class citizens whose linguistic rights are guaranteed everywhere and at all levels and second-class citizens whose rights are only guaranteed in some cases, in their own territory and provided that they do not inconvenience speakers of the privileged community.

7 (94). An oral court hearing about corruption is adjourned in Palma because one of the witnesses “had not informed the court that she wanted to speak Catalan”.

Date:	Administration:	Organisation:	Place:	Territory:
25/01/2016	Central administration	Provincial Court of the Balearic Islands	Palma	Balearic Islands
Victim: Consol Castillo, Councillor of the Compromís party in Valencia				
Description of the case: when a councillor of the Valencian political party Compromís, Consol Castillo, went to give evidence in Catalan in the court proceedings in Palma (Majorca) pertaining to the Nóos case on corruption in the Spanish Royal family, the judge asked her to do so in Spanish because perhaps some of the parties might find it difficult to understand her. Nevertheless, the judge was willing to offer an interpreter even though this would lead to the Councillor’s appearance in court to be adjourned. Finally, Consol Castillo declared in her own language with simultaneous translation by an interpreter. Afterwards Castillo said on the social media of her political party that she “was giving evidence in Palma, not in Cuenca [Castile]”. Moreover, she continued by asserting that “since we have the firm conviction of defending the rights of each and every one of us we do not give in to the demands of ‘speaking Spanish’, which lead justice to be far from normal in our country. Everyone has the right to speak the official language that they want”.				
Source: <i>The lack of an interpreter delays the declaration by Castillo in the Nóos case.</i> Levante –EMV http://val.levante-emv.com/comunitat-valenciana/2016/05/07/falta-interprete-retrasa-declaracion-castillo/1414428.html				

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

8 (95). An official examination panel in a town in Valencia orders a candidate to do the examination in Spanish or leave

Date:	Administration:	Organisation:	Place:	Territory:
15/06/2016	Local administration	Town Council of Godella	Godella	Valencian Community
Victim: Roberto Benavent, a candidate for a position as administrative assistant				
Description of the case: In the official examinations for the post of administrative assistant of the Town Council of Godella, one of the applicants was denied the right to use Catalan. When the candidate requested a version of the exam in his own language, the president of the examining panel told him that <i>"we do not have the exam in Catalan and we are not going to give you one; so either you do it in Spanish or leave"</i> . After the incident, the Town Council of Godella issued a public press release apologising for the unfortunate events, stating that it would take measures to prevent situations like that from occurring again. The examination was declared null and void at the request of the applicant and the Plataforma per la Llengua.				
Source: <i>"We don't have the exam in Catalan; so you either do it in Spanish or leave"</i> Levante-EMV http://www.levante-emv.com/horta/2016/06/15/examen-valenciano-o-castellano-o/1432173.html				

This case demonstrates the existing hostility –often tolerated – among the personnel of the Administration towards the Catalan-speaking population and their rights. Fortunately, this time the violation of the victim's rights was acknowledged, although this should not make us forget that such attitudes are very common and may intimidate and even silence many speakers who would normally use Catalan in their dealings with the Administration.

9 (96). A man is ejected from a Spanish post office in Barcelona for calling for a greater presence of Catalan

Date:	Administration:	Organisation:	Place:	Territory:
29/06/2016	Central administration	Mail	Barcelona	Catalonia
Victim: Jordi Joan Rubí, a resident of Barcelona				
Description of the case: On 29 June a man was a victim of discrimination in a Post Office in Barcelona. Jordi Joan Rubí realised that the office sold postal greetings cards but none of them was in Catalan. Rubí asked to see the office manager to suggest that the material also be provided in Catalan, upon which the manager responded belligerently that “this is Spain”, according to the complainant. In face of the harassment, Rubí took a photograph of the postcards, getting the manager even angrier, who in no uncertain terms asked him to leave the premises. Several citizens in the office at the time defended the plaintiff on realising that his linguistic rights were being clearly infringed. The Plataforma per la Llengua, on learning of the case, provided assessment to Rubí to file a complaint with the Spanish Administration and the Catalan Ombudsman.				
Source: Report transmitted to the Plataforma per la Llengua.				

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

10 (97). A table-tennis trainer is ejected for cheering on his players in Catalan

Date:	Administration:	Organisation:	Place:	Territory:
26/06/2016	Central administration	Spanish Table Tennis Federation	Blanes	Catalonia
Victim: Carles Font, coach of the Cassà Table Tennis Club				
Description of the case: The Spanish table tennis championship was held in Blanes, on the Catalan coast, on the weekend of 25 and 26 June. During a match in the young boys category, the coach of the Cassà Table Tennis Club was ejected after refusing to comply with an order to cheer on his player in Spanish. The man was shown the yellow card after cheering on his young player in Catalan, by saying "Come on Andreu, go for it!". The referee cautioned him and ordered him to speak Spanish, but Carles Font replied that he was not breaking any rules and that he would continue to support his player in Catalan, while also complaining of the abuse by the referee. He reminded him that many players often talk to their players in English or Chinese and have never been prevented from doing so. Upon the coach's insistence on speaking Catalan to his player, the referee decided to send him off. The main judge of the competition did not even let him protest under the excuse that he had been sent off. The club said that this was not the first time that this had happened, since some years before another coach had also been expelled for the same reason in a Spanish under-21 championship in Almeria.				
Source: <i>The coach of the Cassà Table Tennis club is sent off for not "cheering on his player in Spanish"</i> Nació Digital http://www.naciodigital.cat/noticia/111464/expulsen/entrenador/tennis/taula/cassa/no/animar/seu/jugador/espanyol				

This is a clear case of xenophobic and arbitrary attitudes that spread the general sensation that the rights of Catalan speakers are not protected. The whole situation stems from the selective, indifferent, and sometimes hostile, action of the institutions of the Spanish State, particularly the police force and the justice system. Thus, any individual with a modicum of power knows that they can engage in xenophobic and despotic attitudes towards Catalan-speaking citizens without any risk of being disciplined or punished.

11 (98). A citizen is thrown out of a public medical centre for asking to be attended to in Catalan

Date:	Administration:	Organisation:	Place:	Territory:
11/07/2016	Autonomous administration	Drassanes (Barcelona) Primary Health Care Centre	Barcelona	Catalonia
Victim: R.J.M.				
Description of the case: R.J.M. asked a nurse at the Drassanes Primary Health Care Centre, a public health facility in Barcelona, whether the worker could speak Catalan. According to the complainant, the nurse felt aggrieved and had him ejected, even though he had only gone there to pick up some test results. This was a blatant violation of R.J.M.'s linguistic rights, acknowledged in article 14 of the Catalan Decree 107/1987: "Civil servants will normally communicate orally with citizens in Catalan and will respect the citizens' right to choose the language in which they wish to be assisted"				
Source: Complaint received at the Plataforma per la Llengua headquarters.				

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

12 (99). The court of the Valencian town of Sagunt avails itself of a fictitious law to stop a lawyer from using Catalan

Date:	Administration:	Organisation:	Place:	Territory:
01/07/2016	Central administration	Court of First Instance no. 1 of Sagunt	Sagunt	Valencian Community
Victim: Mercè Teodoro, lawyer				
Description of the case: Mercè Teodoro denounced a case of linguistic discrimination perpetrated by the lawyer of the Administration of the Court of First Instance number 1 of Sagunt, who ordered Teodoro, despite the clarity of the applicable legislation, to have an appeal submitted in Catalan translated into Spanish, although the former is one of the official languages of the Valencian Community and therefore perfectly valid for use in court. Following a complaint filed by Teodoro, the court defended its action by means of selective interpretation of the law and even by appealing to a non-existent one: the "Organic Law on Language Rights", a draft proposed by extreme right fringe groups opposed to linguistic diversity which has never been voted on nor submitted to the Spanish parliament and advocates, for example, for the use of the Spanish form of place names which are currently only in the specific language of each territory; for imposing an educational system without language immersion in Catalan; and for suppressing the requirement for regional civil servants to substantiate their knowledge of the languages of the territories where they are to work. The issue was eventually resolved without the translation that had been demanded, inferring, albeit implicitly, the acknowledgement of the legal impossibility of demanding the translation of a language that is already official.				
Source: <i>Another case of linguistic discrimination in the Valencian courts</i> La Veu del País Valencià http://www.laveupv.com/noticia/20864/%20un-altre-cas-de-discriminacio-linguistica-als-jutjats-valencians i http://www.laveupv.com/documents/decret-jutjat-sagunt-llengua.pdf				

This case brings to light the disrespect shown by the judiciary to rights that are theoretically acknowledged by Spanish law. This disrespect leads to the despotic handling of people by the bureaucracy, who forces them to bend to non-existent language obligations without any fear of punishment. In this case, moreover, the oversight involved in resorting to a legislative proposal by non-parliamentary groups leaning closely to the extreme right hints at possible connections between the judiciary and certain reactionary ideological currents in favour of curtailing the language rights of Catalan speakers even further.

13 (100). A lifeguard in the coastal town of Palamós refuses to assist someone who spoke to him in Catalan

Date:	Administration:	Organisation:	Place:	Territory:
10/07/2016	Local administration	Pro-activa Acuaticos	Palamós	Catalonia
Victim: Lioba Costa				
Description of the case: a lifeguard at the beach of La Fosca de Palamós (Catalonia) refused to provide first-aid to a child that had been stung by a jellyfish because the child and his mother addressed him in Catalan. Although they switched languages and asked him for help in Spanish, he continued to refuse, evincing an insolent attitude.				
Source: Ara Girona Daily and the user's Facebook. http://www.aragirona.cat/noticia/2016/07/11/la-denuncia-a-un-socorrista-catalanofob-a-la-platja-de-palamos-es-torna-viral				

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

14 (101). A ticket officer from the public railway service refuses to attend a user because he spoke to her in Catalan.

Date:	Administration:	Organisation:	Place:	Territory:
04/08/2016	Central administration	Renfe	Benicarló	Valencian Community
Victim: Xavier Lluís				
Description of the case: Xavier Lluís was trying to buy a train ticket to return to Tortosa (a town in the south of Catalonia) in the train station of Benicarló (a town in the north of the Valencian Community) and addressed the ticket officer in Catalan. The worker refused to attend to him or to fetch a colleague that could do so while she continued to attend other users speaking Castilian. The complainant posted the case on Twitter, mentioning the official accounts of RENFE, the train operator and ADIF, which is the public train station management company, respectively. Neither of the two accounts gave him an answer, although they continued to answer enquiries from other users. After learning of the situation, the Town Council of Benicarló issued a press release supporting the user. The town council said that it would investigate the incident and that if it were confirmed would demand accountability from the company. It referred to the case as “disrespectful” and a “major violation of the law that protects the official language of the Valencian people”, asserting that “no behaviour that limits the freedom of expression of Catalan speakers can go unpunished”.				
Source: El Periódico del Mediterráneo http://www.elperiodicomediterraneo.com/noticias/comarcas/usuario-renfe-denuncia-desatencion-hablar-catalan_1008032.html				

Once again we are dealing with a xenophobic and intolerant attitude that goes totally unpunished. The perceived - and more often than not real - defencelessness to which the national minorities of the Spanish State are submitted is very serious, not only because of cases of active infringements of rights, but also due to the mental framework it imposes on individuals of the linguistic minorities, who eventually consider the fact that they have fewer rights than the members of the privileged linguistic community as something normal.

15 (102). A Catalan-speaking citizen is repeatedly harassed by different Spanish police officers

Date:	Administration:	Organisation:	Place:	Territory:
04/08/2016	Central administration	The Spanish Police Force	Vic	Catalonia
Victim: Montserrat Puig Cotado				
Description of the case: Montserrat Puig went to have her passport renewed at a Spanish police station in Vic. At the door, a civil guard insisted several times that she should address him in Spanish after she had greeted him by saying “good morning” in Catalan. At one point the police officer even grabbed her by her arm. Far from supporting her, the officer at the desk, who had witnessed everything pretended that he did not understand her until he eventually told her to go and have some photos taken outside. When she returned, the civil guard on the door continued to harass her and initially prevented her from entering, telling her that he would not let her in unless she spoke to him in Spanish. Montserrat Puig did not give in and eventually, after further harassment, the civil guard let her in. When her turn came, a police station official told the person that was to attend to Montserrat Puig not to do so and sent her to an empty table while they continued to attend to other people. When Puig complained, another official went to help her, although he demanded that she speak to him in Spanish because “he was from Madrid”. Montserrat Puig, by then fed up, told him to go back to Madrid, because in Catalonia she was entitled to speak Catalan. The official reported her for “disrespect for authority” and told her that if she wanted to have her passport renewed because she had lost it she would have to report it first to the Catalan Police Force and return in the afternoon. When Montserrat Puig asked him for his badge number, the officer told her it was on the report, and when she asked for the number of the civil guard on the door, the officer told her to ask him for it herself, immediately telling her not to bother to report the loss of her passport to the Catalan Police Force because “he was not going to do her the favour” of attending to her in the afternoon, after all.				
Source: Vilaweb http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticies/catalanofobia-a-la-comissaria-de-la-policia-a-vic-estas-obligada-a-parlar-en-espanyol/				

The case of Montserrat Puig is clear proof of the perverted nature of the Spanish system and the impunity and despotism that it creates for petty dictators who improvise arbitrary and discriminatory solutions without any consideration whatsoever for the established procedures and laws. The State police forces are often reported for harassing citizens who freely and legally decide to use Catalan when communicating with them. They are also well-known for employing intimidation to illegally order such people to switch languages. Moreover, the Castilian nationalism that pervades the civil service and the legal structure protects such arbitrariness: one common police tactic is to report the actual victims, almost always for purported cases of “lack of respect for authority”. This whole situation means that minority-speakers who are more aware of their rights often encounter problems and become anxious in their dealings with these

entities, and it also means that more timid people or those who lack a strong sense of awareness usually choose not to speak Catalan or simply knuckle under to the demands of people who are theoretically public servants.

16 (103). The workers of a centre for the homeless refuse to help a Catalan speaker harassed by other residents

Date:	Administration:	Organisation:	Place:	Territory:
09/08/2016	Autonomous administration	Centre Integral de Zona Franca de Barcelona	Barcelona	Catalonia
Victim: L. B.				
Description of the case: L. B. was living in the Centre Integral de Zona Franca de Barcelona, which accommodates the homeless. When he complained to the centre personnel that he and other Catalan speakers were being harassed for speaking Catalan by some of the interns that came from Castilian-speaking areas of Spain, the staff did nothing to help him or to make sure that he was not mistreated. When he posted a text describing his situation on the notice board, it was quickly withdrawn because the workers claimed that it was aggressive and could create trouble.				
Source: report transmitted to the Plataforma per la Llengua.				

In this case, the most serious issue is the indifference among the centre's employees when told of a case of xenophobic discrimination and their failure to do anything about it. Pro-Castilian harassment, based on a supremacist idea, has been accepted as a matter of course by many citizens, irrespective of whether they belong to the privileged linguistic community or not. The harassment in itself is serious, but the fact that workers in centres with special needs are incapable of perceiving attitudes of intolerable xenophobia such as the ones mentioned above or of tackling it is merely an example of a lack of training and tools, as well as the impunity with which the rights of Catalan speakers are trodden on.

17 (104). His right to receive notifications in Catalan is acknowledged but he is condemned anyway because while this right was violated it “did not constitute defencelessness”.

Date:	Administration:	Organisation:	Place:	Territory:
August 2016	Central administration	Contentious-Administrative Court	Valencia	Valencian Community
Victim: Lluís Olagüe				
Description of the case: On the 17 July, the judge of the contentious-administrative court of Valencia Carmen Casado Guijarro issued a ruling on a case brought by Lluís Olagüe, a Notary Public of Valencia, against the official College of Notaries Public of the same city. The origin of the conflict lay in the fact that the Official College had fined Olagüe €21,000 after discovering an alleged serious offence by him following an inspection that had been notified to him in Spanish, against the wishes of Olagüe, who for years, and also in the case in question, had been telling the College that he wished to receive notifications in Catalan. The judge decided that Olagüe was right and that the Official College should use Catalan in the administrative proceedings which led to the penalty. Nevertheless, she also found that use of Spanish did not constitute defencelessness on Olagüe’s part because he was obliged to understand Spanish, and she confirmed the 21,000-Euro fine on the Notary Public plus 500 Euros in legal costs.				
Source: Vilaweb http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticies/lestat-nega-lus-del-catala-a-un-notari-valencia-perque-te-ple-coneixement-del-castella/				

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

18 (105). Prevented from entering a branch of the Social Security if they did not speak Spanish to the security guard

Date:	Administration:	Organisation:	Place:	Territory:
August 2016	Central administration	Branch of the Ministry of Social Security (INSS)	Dénia	Valencian Community
Victim: Josep Lozano-Seser and his mother				
Description of the case: A security guard at a Social Security branch in Dénia (Valencian Community) refused to attend to the writer Josep Lozano-Seser and his mother in Catalan, claiming that he did not understand them and demanded they give him their identity card number in Spanish if they wanted to enter the Office. Eventually, Lozano-Seser and his mother were able to key in their respective ID card numbers and entered the building. When they filed a complaint for the infringement of their linguistic rights, they received a standard letter from the general administration of the State in which they simply stated that they were making every effort to improve the service.				
Source: La Veu del País Valencià http://www.laveupv.com/noticia/23299/oficina-de-la-seguretat-social-de-denia-nega-laccs-per-parlar-en-valencia?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter&publicitat=true				

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

19 (106). A Catalan MP is ordered to speak Spanish at the airport because “Catalan cannot be spoken in the air”

Date:	Administration:	Organisation:	Place:	Territory:
22/09/2016	Central State Administration	AENA (el Prat Airport)	El Prat de Llobregat	Catalonia
Victim: Benet Salellas Vilar, lawyer and member of the Catalanian Parliament for the CUP party.				
Description of the case: Benet Salellas, a member of the Catalanian Parliament for the CUP political party, was accosted by airport security personnel at El Prat when negotiating security control. When he replied in Catalan, the officials demanded that he switch to Spanish because “they were in the air and you cannot speak Catalan in the air”. They ended up speaking English. This information subsequently came to light because the MP Albert Botran, a party fellow of Salellas, made it public in the course of a motion to the Catalanian Parliament regarding the use of Catalan in companies.				
Source: Complaint detected in a parliamentary session and referred to the Plataforma per la Llengua.				

Yet again we are dealing with harassment derived from the sensation of impunity generated by the legal system, and more particularly by its selective and ideological application by the judicial echelons. Hence, the idea that a Castilian speaker can work anywhere in the State without any linguistic adaptation requirement prevails, whereas the same is never expected of a Catalan speaker or of a member of another linguistic community. This vision is often reinforced by the failure by the authorities and companies to apply the linguistic legislation and by the nationalistic worldview inherent of the very Spanish law and of the people who interpret it.

20 (107). A Catalan councillor is obliged to speak in Spanish in the “National Court”

Date:	Administration:	Organisation:	Place:	Territory:
28/12/2016	Central administration	“National Court”	Madrid	Spain
Victim: Joan Coma, a councillor of the CUP political party in the City Council of Vic.				
Description of the case: Joan Coma, a councillor of the CUP political party of the City Council of Vic, was summoned to declare in the Spanish “National Court” on account of an alleged offence of inciting sedition. When he failed to turn up he was arrested and taken to Madrid to declare. The court had not provided for an interpreter and Coma was told that they did not know when one would be available, hence the proceedings, which were being held more than 600 km from his home, might have to be adjourned for a few hours. In view of the legal pressure brought to bear upon him for attempting to continue to exercise his right to express himself in Catalan or remain under arrest, Coma eventually declared in Castilian.				
Source: Information transmitted to the Plataforma per la Llengua.				

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

21 (108). A Valencian councillor is harassed and reported by the Civil Guard for speaking Catalan

Date:	Administration:	Organisation:	Place:	Territory:
December 2016	Central administration	Civil Guard	Gata de Gorgos	Valencian Community
Victim: Jaume Monfort, Deputy Mayor of Gata de Gorgos for Podem.				
Description of the case: Jaume Monfort, Deputy Mayor of Gata de Gorgos (Valencian Community) for the Podem political party, was harassed by two Civil Guard officers when he told them that they had parked their car in a forbidden area. The officers ordered Monfort to speak Castilian, and when he refused to comply they insisted that they were living in Spain and that he had to speak to them in Spanish. They also addressed him as “señorito” (a contemptuous way of saying “milord”). When Monfort asked them to identify themselves so that he could complain about the way he had been treated, they ordered him to produce his identity card so that they could report him, since “he had shown disrespect to them” simply by speaking Catalan.				
Source: Vilaweb; information also reported to the pro-language Platform by telephone http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticies/parlans-en-espanyol-el-tinent-de-batlle-de-gata-victima-dun-atac-catalanofobic-per-part-de-la-guardia-civil/				

Once again, the public officials of the State administration show they fully subscribe to the Castilian nationalist doctrine stemming from the configuration of the state, to the extent that they infringe its very laws with impunity. This is particularly serious when it comes to the relationship between armed forces and citizens of national and linguistic minorities, since the former frequently treat the latter with disdain, hostility and harassment, and disguise their xenophobic attitudes with false claims which the legal system, also militantly nationalistic, will tend to uphold. The sensation of impunity is absolute.

22 (109). A magistrate does not accept a document in a legal action in Alacant because “it is in Catalan and not in Valencian”

Date:	Administration:	Organisation:	Place:	Territory:
December 2016	Central administration	Contentious-administrative Court number 3	Alacant	Valencian Community
Victim: Government of Catalonia.				
<p>Description of the case: the magistrate José María Aristóteles Magán, the incumbent of a contentious-administrative Court in Alacant, called upon the government of Catalonia to have a document sent to the institution that he chairs translated into Castilian, arguing that Catalan is not official in the Valencian Community. This line of argument would infer that Magán subscribes to linguistic secessionism, a political doctrine rejected by virtually all scholars, according to which the Catalan that is spoken in Valencia (where it is called “Valencian”) is a different language to that which is spoken in Catalonia and the Balearics. Curiously enough, Magán uses this unscientific line of argument (which in fact is contrary to the jurisprudence of the Spanish Supreme Court) to demand the translation of the document in question into Castilian, leaving no option for it to be translated into the other official language (Valencian) which according to him is different from Catalan. It should be kept in mind that Magán already had a record of disregard for the rights of Catalan speakers and as a militant Castilian linguistic nationalist in the courts of justice: before he was transferred to Alacant from a court in Lleida, he was fined by the Higher Court of Catalonia and by the Supreme Court for adding offensive personal remarks in his findings regarding the use of Catalan in the courts and the right to use it in certain situations. Nevertheless, this judge’s recurring discrimination and offences have not prevented him from continuing to practice and act in his own way, as is borne out in this case.</p>				
<p>Source: Vilaweb http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticies/escandol-a-alacant-perque-un-jutge-diu-que-el-catala-no-es-cooficial/; Público http://www.publico.es/politica/supremo-multa-juez-lleida-criticar.html; Las Provincias http://www.lasprovincias.es/v/20130506/comunitat/jose-maria-magan-rendido-20130506.html</p>				

The magistrate Magán is the most extreme product of the Castilian supremacist ideology that permeates the institutions of the State and more particularly the legal system. His nationalistic zeal is such that he has even clashed with the jurisprudence of courts that are above him in scientifically indisputable matters, such as the unity of Catalan language, or legally incontestable ones, namely the judges’ obligation not to bring value judgements or political opinions into their rulings.

Previous cases (2007–2015)

1. 16/03/2007 A magistrate of the Civil Registry of Badalona obliged a couple to get married in Spanish although his command of Catalan had already been substantiated.
Source: <i>A couple file a complaint against a judge from Badalona before the Higher Court of Justice of Catalonia for forcing them to get married in Spanish.</i> Vilaweb www.vilaweb.cat/ep/ultima-hora/2316923/20070316/parella-denuncia-davant-tsic-jutgebadalona-forcar-casament-castella.html
2. 16/03/2007 A doctor is dismissed from a municipal sports centre in Prat de Llobregat for speaking Catalan to her patients.
Source: <i>A doctor is sacked for talking to clients in Catalan.</i> El Punt Avui http://hemeroteca.e-noticies.com/edicio-1793/actualitat/acomiaden-una-metgessaperqu%e8-es-dirigia-als-clients-en-catal%e0-20711.html <i>The doctor accused of refusing to speak Spanish is reinstated by the City Council of Prat de Llobregat</i> http://www.elprat.cat/noticies/detallNoticia/_ZCZRBu1Qu4chuvn2OwPJJaTNgFe4I7t9YWGwAYmaltgqxYDFv-6USRg
3. 17/04/2007 A former socialist senator is obliged to speak Spanish amid the jeers of some security guards.
Source: <i>Obliged to speak Spanish by security guards on the AVE train from Lleida.</i> E-Notícies http://hemeroteca.e-noticies.com/edicio-1812/actualitat/vigilants-de-lave-de-lleidaobliguen-a-parlar-en-castell%e0-21976.html
4. 16/08/2007 A Moroccan translator is insulted for addressing the Civil Guard in Catalan in Palma (Majorca) and is fined for making offensive remarks.
Source: <i>Disciplinary action will be taken against the police officers from Palma who harassed Saïda Saddouki</i> Vilaweb http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticia/2533496/20070831/obriran-expedient-agents-palma-vexarsaida-saddouki-parlar-catala.html <i>The judge finds Saïda guilty of making serious offensive remarks.</i> Diari de Balears http://dbalears.cat/actualitat/balears/la-jutgessa-condemna-saida-per-injuriesgreus.html
5. 20/08/2007 A councillor of Indara (Marina Alta), fined, humiliated and described as a "yokel" by two Civil Guards for speaking Catalan
Source: <i>Civil Guards reported for linguistic discrimination.</i> Ràdio Pego http://www.radiopego.com/index.php?name=News&file=article&sid=1413
6. 03/12/2007 Hèctor López Bofill and his wife are harassed and discriminated against for speaking Catalan in a RENFE station in Plaça Catalunya
Source: <i>Renfe obliges López Bofill to speak "Spanish".</i> E-Notícies http://hemeroteca.e-noticies.com/edicio-2006/actualitat/renfe-exigeix-parlar-encastellano-a-l%F3pez-bofill-32317.html
7. 07/01/2008 A police officer harasses and orders a citizen to shut up for speaking Catalan in the police station of Sant Feliu de Llobregat
Source: <i>"I don't want to speak Catalan, this is Spain".</i> E-Notícies http://hemeroteca.e-noticies.com/edicio-2033/actualitat/no-me-da-la-gana-hablar-encatal%e1n-estamos-en-espa%f1a-33423.html
8. 28/02/2008 A young man is tried for disobedience of authority in Maó (Minorca) for addressing National Police Force officers in Catalan.
Source: <i>A young man will stand trial in Maó tomorrow accused of disobedience of authority after addressing National Police Force officers in Catalan.</i> Europa Press http://www.europapress.es/00059/20080227184617/jove-sera-jutjat-dema-mao-acusatdesobeir-lautoritat-despres-parlar-catala-policia-nacional.html
9. 30/08/2008 The Civil Guard deny the mayor of Montblanc his right to speak Catalan and report him.

Source: <i>The Civil Guard of Montblanc oblige the Mayor to identify himself and speak Spanish.</i> Vilaweb http://www.vilaweb.cat/www/elpunt/noticia?p_idcmp=2990136
10. 15/11/2008 A young man brutally assaulted for interceding in a homophobic assault is insulted in the National Police Force station for speaking Catalan when he went to report it. The agents branded him as "dumb" and a "show-off", according to his complaint.
Source: <i>Ferran Giménez, Dénia. in Spanish! the security forces against Catalan (blog).</i> http://contraelcatala.blogspot.com.es/2012/11/ferran-gimenez-denia.html
11. 16/02/2009 A young man is held, manhandled and insulted for speaking Catalan in a National Police Force road control in the Cadí tunnel
Source: <i>CAT on registration plates. A colonial chronicle in the Cadí Tunnel.</i> Llibertat.cat http://wwwllibertat.cat/2009/03/el-cat-a-les-matricules.una-cronica-colonial-al-tunel-delcadi-5989
12. 18/03/2009 A cultural expert from the City Council of Reus and a student are verbally harassed by a teacher for speaking Catalan on a course funded by the Ministry of Employment and the European Union
Source: <i>Two residents of Reus report discrimination for speaking Catalan on a course paid for by the Government.</i> Reus Digital http://reusdigital.cat/noticies/dos-reusencs-denuncien-discriminaci-parlar-en-catal-enun-curs-pagat-pel-govern
13. 22/05/2009 The Dean of the Electoral Board of Palma and a civil servant accuse an official representative of being "radical" for addressing them in Catalan and refuse to deal with him.
Source: <i>Joan Miquel Chacón of ERC reports two public officials of the Electoral Board who accused him of being "radical" just for speaking Catalan.</i> Diari de Balears http://dbalears.cat/actualitat/balears/m-han-humiliat-per-xerrar-la-meva-llengua.html
14. 07/08/2009 Two civil guards assault a young man from Majorca for speaking Catalan to them in the airport and are eventually convicted.
Source: <i>The Court upholds the conviction against the Civil Guard who assaulted Iván Cortès.</i> Diari de Balears http://dbalears.cat/actualitat/balears/l-audiencia-confirma-la-condemna-al-guardia-civilque-agredi-ivan-cortes.html
15. 11/08/2009 A Peruvian woman who was applying for her child's identity card, arrested for speaking Catalan on the phone in a police station. <i>The police officer who held and harassed her is sentenced to a €70 fine for coercion.</i>
Source: <i>Rosario Palomino, Barcelona In Spanish! The security forces against Catalan.</i> http://contraelcatala.blogspot.com.es/2012/11/rosario-palomino-barcelona.html
16. 03/09/2009 A family misses its flight for addressing the Civil Guard in Catalan at Girona airport and is fined for disorderly conduct.
Source: <i>A passenger is tried for shouting at a Civil Guard in Catalan at the airport .</i> Diari de Girona http://www.diaridegirona.cat/comarques/2010/02/21/jutgen-passatgera-laeroport-cridarcatala-guardia-civil/389058.html
17. 08/09/2009 A journalist from Northern Catalonia, held at a police control in La Jonquera for speaking Catalan and not knowing Spanish.
Source: <i>Account of the young man in an interview on Ràdio Arrels in Perpignan.</i> Ràdio Arrels http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wX4O9CvQW0M
18. 30/09/2009 A judge from Elx slights Catalan and questions the right of a defendant and a witness to speak Catalan in a trial.
Source: <i>Judge and prosecutor slight Catalan and defend "the common language" during a trial in Elx.</i> L'Accent. Periòdic Popular dels Països Catalans http://www.laccent.cat/index.php/paisos-catalans/repressio-i-drets/item/1457-jutgessa-ila-fiscalia-menyspreen-el-valenci%C3%A0-i-fan-apologia-de-la-lengua-com%C3%B0an-en-el-judici-d-elx
19. 07/12/2009 A man is refused medical care in the clinic of Benicarló for speaking Catalan. The man complains and the Board of Health sanctions the practice by alleging that some of

the staff are from outside the region and that he knows Spanish. The Ombudsman of Valencia confirms that it is an infringement of linguistic rights.
Source: <i>The Spanish police harass a journalist for speaking Catalan</i> . El País http://elpais.com/diario/2009/12/07/cvalenciana/1260217077_850215.html
20. 06/01/2010 National Police officers harass a journalist for speaking Catalan.
Source: <i>The Spanish police harass a journalist for speaking Catalan</i> . Racó Català http://www.racocatala.cat/noticia/21539/policia-espanyola-vexa-periodista-parlarvalencia?pag=1
21. 02/02/2010 A Cuban citizen held at the Airport of El Prat denounces police harassment for speaking Catalan. The police were unpleasantly surprised at his proficiency and retorted: "Fuck me, you speak Catalan really well!"
Source: "Fuck me, you speak Catalan really well!" <i>Sant Andreu de Palomar (in the Avui newspaper)</i> http://www.sant-andreu.com/catXppcc/agressionsllengua-cojonesquebienablascatalan-020210.htm
22. 04/03/2010 A resident of Pollença, forced to speak Spanish by the Civil Guard during an identification even though the officers understood Catalan.
Source: <i>Criticism of the Civil Guard for demanding that drivers speak to them in Spanish</i> . El Mundo http://www.elmundo.es/elmundo/2010/05/18/baleares/1274201518.html
23. 16/04/2010 A patient is ejected from a health centre in Inca for addressing a general practitioner in Catalan.
Source: <i>The OCB reports a further case of linguistic aggression, this time in the Inca health centre</i> . OCB http://dbalears.cat/actualitat/balears/l-ocb-denuncia-una-nova-agressio-linguisticaaquest-cop-al-centre-de-salut-d-inca.html
24. 14/05/2010 Two young Majorcans, held by the Civil Guard at a roundabout in Porreres for speaking Catalan.
Source: <i>The OCB reports three cases of linguistic discrimination by the Civil Guard</i> . OCB http://dretsling.blogspot.com.es/search?updated-max=2010-07-13T09:20:00-07:00&maxresults=3&start=27&by-date=false
25. 29/06/2010 Hours of delay in giving medical care to an 80-year-old woman from Alcoi because the emergency workers did not understand Catalan
Source: Judgement by the Ombudsman of the Valencian Community, Complaint case 105524 Subject:: Rights of citizens to choose their language Ombudsman of Valencia http://www.elsindic.com/Resoluciones/10301154.pdf
26. 29/10/2010 A driver, insulted and harassed by the Civil Guard at the Andorran border for speaking Catalan to her partner.
Source: Complaint received via e-mail by the linguistic complaints section on the website of the Pro-Language Platform in November 2010.
27. 22/01/2011 A citizen from Costera, ridiculed by the Civil Guard for having a Catalan name in a routine control in Ontinyent.
Source: Complaint received via e-mail by the linguistic complaints section on the website of the Pro-Language Platform in January 2011.
28. 28/01/2011 An official of the Northern Station of Valencia refused to attend a disabled user because the person's companion addressed him in Catalan.
Source: <i>An ADIF worker refuses to attend an enquiry in Catalan regarding a disabled passenger</i> . Valencianisme.com http://www.valencianisme.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2839&Itemid=48
29. 02/03/2011 The Spanish Supreme Court dismisses an appeal against a finding issued in Barcelona because it was worded in Catalan.
Source: <i>The Supreme Court ignores an appeal against a ruling issued in Barcelona because it is worded in Catalan</i> . El Punt Avui 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
30. 23/05/2011 A citizen from Cambrils, ridiculed and humiliated at a Spanish ID card office for wanting to speak Catalan.
Source: Complaint received via e-mail by the linguistic complaints section on the website of the Pro-Language Platform in May 2011.
31. 06/01/2012 Health care denied to a citizen from Crevillent, who is ridiculed for speaking Catalan.
Source: <i>A doctor in Crevillent refuses to attend a patient because he spoke Catalan.</i> El Punt Avui 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
32. 18/01/2012 A language planning officer is sacked from the City Council of Dènia for reporting non-fulfilment of the linguistic legislation.
Source: <i>Intolerable act against a language defender.</i> Acció Cultural del País Valencià http://acpv.cat/web/actualitat/acte-intolerable-contra-un-defensor-de-la-llengua
33. 21/01/2012 A driver from Empordà, held and threatened for addressing a Civil Guard in Catalan.
Source: <i>The Civil Guard is investigating coercion due to the use of Catalan.</i> El Punt Avui http://www.elpuntavui.cat/noticia/article/24-puntdivers/4-divers/497809-la-guardia-civilinvestiga-les-coaccions-per-lus-del-catala.html?dema=1
34. 28/01/2012 A civil guard assaults a lawyer at El Prat airport (Barcelona) for refusing to speak Spanish.
Source: <i>A young man reports the Civil Guard for assaulting him at Barcelona airport for speaking Catalan.</i> Diari Ara http://www.ara.cat/societat/Guardia_civil-catala-El_Prut-agressio-Mossosllengua_0_635336654.html
35. 07/02/2012 A couple from Reus is made to pay the City Council €180 to get married in Catalan after the Civil Registry obliged them be wed in Spanish.
Source: <i>In Reus it will cost you €180 to get married in Catalan</i> Reus Digital http://reusdigital.cat/noticies/reus-si-et-vols-casar-en-catal-et-fan-pagar-180-euros
36. 25/02/2012 A young Majorcan is reported for disrespect of the authority for speaking Catalan to a member of the National Police Force during a demonstration.
Source: <i>A national police force officer reports a young Majorcan for speaking to him in Catalan.</i> Diari ARA http://www.ara.cat/politica/Palma-Urdangarin-catala-guardia_civil-denunciaInstituto_Noos_0_652734836.html
37. 05/05/2012 A citizen enters a Civil Guard Police Station in Inca to make a complaint and is reported for speaking Catalan.
Source: <i>"I wanted to make a complaint and ended up on the wrong end of one" Jordi Alegre summonsed to the courts in Inca for disobedience of authority. He tried to speak Catalan to the Civil Guard.</i> Diari de Balears http://dbalears.cat/actualitat/balears/volia-posar-denuncia-citen-com-denunciat.html
38. 30/05/2012 A resident of Alt Empordà, verbally and physically assaulted by a pair of Civil Guard officers and tried for refusing to speak Spanish.
Source: <i>Two civil guards go on trial for harassing a resident of Vilajuïga for refusing to speak Spanish.</i> Vilaweb http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticia/4025869/20120704/dos-guardies-civils-judici-vexar-veivilajuiga-negava-parlar-espanyol.html
39. 27/06/2012 A resident of l'Ametlla del Vallès, illegally held at Barcelona airport for speaking Catalan and English.
Source: <i>Held by the National Police Force at El Prat airport for speaking only English or Catalan.</i> Diari ARA http://www.ara.cat/societat/Retingut-Policia-Nacional-aeroport-Pratcatala_0_726527425.html
40. 07/07/2012 A young Majorcan spends the night in jail for not answering the Civil Guard

in Spanish.	
Source: <i>The Civil Guard arrests an Arran militant for failing to answer in Spanish.</i> Setmanari Directa http://www.setmanaridirecta.info/noticia/guardia-civil-arresta-un-militant-maulets-negarse-contestar-los-castella	
41.	20/08/2012 A police officer at the National Police Force station in Vic refuses to attend to a citizen for speaking Catalan and threatens him.
Source: Complaint received via e-mail by the linguistic complaints section on the website of the Pro-Language Platform in September 2012 and published: The Pro-Language Platform reports a new case of linguistic discrimination at the National Police Force station in Vic. Pro-Language Platform https://www.plataformallengua.cat/noticies/interior/1978	
42.	07/09/2012 A traveller is held by the National Police Force at Barcelona airport for giving his identity card number in Catalan.
Source: <i>Held at the airport for speaking Catalan.</i> Pro-Language Platform Blog http://blogspersonals.ara.cat/elcatalasuma/2012/09/20/retingut-a-laeroport-per-parlar-encatala/	
43.	10/10/2012 A female magistrate from Cantabria takes the custody of a daughter away from a Catalan citizen alleging that he spoke to her in Catalan to separate her from her mother.
Source: A female magistrate from Cantabria takes away a Member of the Catalan Autonomous Police Force's custody of his daughter for "not teaching her Spanish". El Periòdico http://www.elperiodico.cat/ca/noticias/societat/jutge-cantabria-retira-custodia-fillamosso-per-ensenyar-li-castella-2222913	
44.	30/10/2012 The tax authorities refuse to process a widow's pension alleging that the death certificate was submitted in Catalan.
Source: <i>The Pro-language Platform denounces that the Ministry of Finance failed to process a widow's pension because the death certificate was in Catalan.</i> Pro-Language Platform http://www.plataforma-llengua.cat/noticies/interior/1967	
45.	21/12/2012 A driver from Almenara loses his driving license and is held for three hours at a Civil Guard control for speaking Catalan.
Source: "I lost my driving license for speaking Catalan". Vilaweb http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticia/4068300/20121223/mhan-retirat-carnet-conduir-parlarvalencia.html	
46.	31/12/2012 A resident of Vistabella del Maestrat, harassed and called ill-mannered by a doctor of the Hospital Jaume I of Castelló de la Plana for speaking Catalan.
Source: <i>The Pro-Language Platform gives legal counselling to the victim of a new case of linguistic discrimination in the Hospital Jaume I in Castellón de la Plana.</i> Pro-Language Platform https://www.plataforma-llengua.cat/noticies/interior/2050	
47.	05/03/2013 The Valencian Government shuts down Canal 9, the last remaining Catalan television station in the Valencian Community, and denies the dismissed workers the right to be given notice in Catalan.
Source: <i>The Ombudsman asks RTVV why it only notified the dismissed workers about the redundancy scheme in Spanish.</i> Ombudsman of the Valencian Community. http://www.elsindic.com/es/noticias/2013/03/15/el-sindic-de-greuges-pregunta-a-rtvvpor-que-informa-a-los-despedidos-por-el-ere-solo-en-castellano.html	
48.	23/03/2013 The flute player in the Obrint Pas group, arrested, threatened and assaulted for addressing two National Police Force officers in Catalan.
Source: <i>A policeman shouts at Miguel Gironès (Obrint Pas): "Speak to me in Spanish, for fuck's sake!"</i> Vilaweb http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticia/4109561/20130427/policia-miquel-girones-obrint-pas-emparles-espanyol-collons.html	
49.	27/03/2013 A lecturer at the Jaume I University of Castelló devotes his time to demonstrating the uselessness of Catalan and calls a student who complained about his

teaching methods a "crusty".
Source: <i>Pro-Spanish indoctrination by a lecturer of the Jaume I University of Castelló.</i> Vilaweb http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticia/4099387/20130327/adoctrinament-espanyolista-professoruniversitat-jaume-castello-acabar.html
50. 05/03/2013 A father and his son are insulted by two National Police Force officers on a regional train in Figueres for speaking Catalan and failing to heed their coercion: "in Spanish or not at all".
Source: <i>Complaint received via e-mail by the linguistic complaints section on the website of the Pro-Language Platform in April 2013. New case of linguistic aggression by the Spanish police in Figueres.</i> El Punt Avui http://www.elpuntavui.cat/noticia/article/2-societat/5-societat/640659-denuncia-unspolicies-que-li-exigien-de-parlar-en-castella.html
51. 12/07/2013 A citizen is accused of disturbing the peace by a local policeman from Campello for speaking Catalan and saying that his name was Lluís-Xavier.
Source: <i>Our support to Lluís Xavier Flores, victim of the insults of a local policeman for speaking Catalan.</i> El Tempir. Associació Cívica per la Llengua a Elx www.eltempir.cat/ca/2013/07/12/el-nostre-suport-a-lluis-xavier-floresvictima-dels-insults-dun-policia-local-per-parlar-li-en-valencia/ Elche will report a case of linguistic discrimination. El PuntAvui http://www.elpuntavui.cat/noticia/article/2-societat/5-societat/679777-elxdenunciara-la-discriminacio-lingueistica.html
52. 21/07/2013 The National Police Force refuses to allow a citizen from Palma to lodge a complaint in Catalan.
Source: <i>New case of linguistic discrimination by the National Police Force.</i> Diari de Balears http://dbalears.cat/actualitat/balears/nou-cas-discriminacio-linguisticaper-part-policia-nacional.html
53. 22/07/2013 A citizen is arrested at a demonstration in Elche for speaking Catalan to a National Police Force officer.
Source: <i>The El Tempir association reports a new case of linguistic discrimination in Elche for speaking to a police officer in Catalan.</i> Vilaweb http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticia/4143605/20130913/lassociacio-tempirdenuncia-cas-discriminacio-linguistica-elx-adreca-policia-catala.html Support to Paco Muñoz Giménez, arrested by the National Police Force for speaking Catalan. El Tempir. Associació Cívica per la Llengua a Elx http://www.eltempir.cat/ca/2013/07/22/suport-a-paco-munoz-gimenezdetingut-per-la-policia-nacional-per-parlar-los-en-valencia/
54. 03/08/2013 A resident of Puçol, falsely accused in a routine control by the Civil Guard for speaking Catalan.
Source: <i>A resident of Puçol, victim of a false Civil Guard report for speaking Catalan.</i> La Veu del País Valencià http://www.laveupv.com/noticia/3936/un-vei-de-pucol-victima-dunadenuncia-falsa-de-la-guardia-civil-per-parlar-en-valencia
55. 04/08/2013 Two young people are beaten and humiliated by security guards and civil guards in the Arenal Sound festival in Borriana for speaking Catalan.
Source: <i>Punched and kicked for speaking Catalan on the last night of Arenal Sound.</i> Vilaweb http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticia/4137716/20130806/cops-peu-puny-haverparlat-catala-lultima-nit-darenal-sound.html
56. 22/08/2013 A Court in Vinaròs refuses to accept a complaint submitted in Catalan alleging that it is not an official language in the Autonomous Valencian Community.
Source: <i>A court in Vinaròs forces lawyers from the Ebre area to speak Spanish.</i> El Punt Avui http://www.elpuntavui.cat/noticia/article/2-societat/5-societat/671782-unjutjat-de-vinaros-exigeix-el-castella-a-advocats-de-lebre.html?cca=1
57. 23/08/2013 An ex-councillor from Olleria is harassed by a National Police Force officer for addressing him in Catalan in Valencia.
Source: <i>A former councillor of Olleria, victim of a new case of language discrimination by the</i>

police. Vilaweb http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticia/4140008/20130823/ex-regidor-lolleriavictima-cas-discriminacio-linguistica-policia.html
58. 13/09/2013 A National Police Force officer refuses to process a complaint by a citizen because the latter spoke to him in Catalan, ordering the citizen to "speak Spanish".
Source: "Speak Spanish, this is Spain". La Veu del País Valencià http://www.laveupv.com/noticia/4649/hableme-en-espanol-esto-es-espana <i>El Tempir reports a new case of language discrimination in Elx by a National Police officer and expresses its solidarity with Francisco Escortell.</i> El Tempir http://www.eltempir.cat/ca/2013/09/13/el-tempir-denuncia-un-nou-cas-dediscriminacio-linguistica-produida-a-elx-per-un-policia-nacional-i-essolidaritz-a-amb-francesc-cortell/
59. 18/11/2013 A court in Barcelona denies a lawyer the right to conduct a legal action in Catalan.
Source: A lawyer is denied his right to use Catalan in a legal action. El Punt Avui 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 Personal account by Miquel Panadès.
60. 05/12/2013 A grandfather and his grandson are ejected from a TALGO train by a conductor for speaking Catalan.
Source: A Talgo train conductor ejects a grandfather and his grandson for being Catalan. El Punt Avui http://www.elpuntavui.cat/noticia/article/1-territori/-/700188-la-revisora-duntalgo-fa-baixar-un-avi-i-un-net-per-ser-catalans.html <i>The conductor who had two passengers removed from the train because they were Catalan is now threatening to report them.</i> Vilaweb http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticia/4161210/20131211/revisora-baixar-dospassatgers-eren-catalans-amenaca-denunciar-los.html
61. 01/02/2014 A civil guard of the Assistant Office of the Spanish Government in Castelló obliges a member of the Regional Assembly of Valencia to speak Spanish.
Source: Marina Albiol denounces linguistic discrimination in the Assistant Office of the Spanish government in Castelló. Vilaweb http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticia/4170744/20140202/marina-albiol-denunciadiscriminacio-linguistica-subdelegacio-govern-espanyol-castello.html
62. 21/03/2014 A female magistrate from Tenerife removes a child from the custody of her mother, who went to live in Ripollet, considering that Catalan could be a "problem" for the young girl.
Source: A young girl is separated from her mother because Catalan is a hindrance. El Punt Avui http://www.elpuntavui.cat/noticia/article/2-societat/-/726516-aparten-unanena-de-la-seva-mare-per-lescoll-del-catala.html
63. 10/04/2014 A court sentence by a female magistrate in Granollers considers that the use of Catalan is a nuisance in legal proceedings even although she has accredited knowledge of the language as a merit.
Source: A female magistrate in Granollers considers that the use of Catalan is a nuisance in legal proceedings. El Punt Avui http://www.elpuntavui.cat/noticia/article/2-societat/5-societat/731980-unamagistrada-considera-una-nosa-lus-del-catala-en-un-procedimentjudicial.html?cca=1
64. 26/04/2014 Officers from the police station in Xirivella refused to attend to a citizen because she spoke Catalan, they hung up the phone on her and she was made to wait for more than an hour until a translator arrived.
Source: The Police Station of Xirivella refuses to attend to a woman in Catalan and calls in an interpreter. Levante http://www.levante-emv.com/comarcas/2014/04/26/comisaria-xirivellaniega-atender-mujer/1104512.html
65. 30/04/2014 A demonstrator was threatened with a €200 fine for speaking Catalan to National Police Force officers in Dènia.

Source: Threatened with a €200 fine for speaking to the police in Catalan. Vilaweb <http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticia/4188568/20140430/amenacat-multa-200-euroshaver-parlat-catala-policia.html> **He lodges a complaint against the National Police Force for threatening him with a fine for speaking Catalan during a PAH protest. La Marina Plaza. Diari de la Marina Alta i Baixa** <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>

66. 05/05/2014 The Board of Traffic of Osca ignores a petition in Catalan from a young person who was fined after speaking Catalan at a Civil Guard control in Ribagorça.

Source: The State discriminates against a young man for speaking Catalan and Occitan. Ebre Exprés <http://ebreexpres.com/lestat-discrimina-un-jove-per-parlar-catala-occita/> **A young man denounces discrimination against the LAPAO in Aragon.** Diari ARA http://www.ara.cat/societat/denuncia-lArago-tambe-discriminaLAPAO_0_1142885892.html

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

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

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

Source: A resident of Caldes de Malavella accuses two police officers of threatening and insulting him for speaking Catalan. El Punt Avui <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=> **Two National Police Force officers reported for holding a young man for speaking Catalan.** Nació Digital <http://www.naciodigital.cat/noticia/69773/denuncien/dos/policies/cnp/van/retenir/jove/parlar/catala>

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

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

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

Source: The courts deny Spanish citizenship to a Chinese citizen who speaks Catalan but not Spanish. VilaWeb <http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticia/4225606/20141229/tribunals-deneguenciutadania-espanyola-xines-parla-catala-parlar-espanyol.html> **The magistrates deny nationality to a Chinese man that does not speak Spanish.** Levante. El mercantil valenciano <http://www.levante-emv.com/comunitat-valenciana/2014/12/29/juecesdeniegan-nacionalidad-chino-incapaz/1206521.htm>

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

Source: Linguistic discrimination in the Punt Verd of Emaya in Palma. Diari de Balears, 2 February 2015 <http://dbalears.cat/politica/2015/02/02/284731/discriminacio-linguisticapunt-verd-emaya-palma.html> **Emaya says that the linguistic discrimination in the Punt Verd was an "impression".** Diari de Balears, 5 February 2015 <http://dbalears.cat/politica/2015/02/05/284761/emaya-diu-discriminaciolingustica-punt-verd-ser-impessio.html>

72. 25/02/2015 A resident of Castelló de la Plana, held and harassed by officers of the

National Police Force for talking Catalan.
Source: <i>A resident is retained in Castellón for speaking Catalan.</i> La Veu del País Valencià, 25 February 2015 http://www.laveupv.com/noticia/13296/unvei-es-retingut-a-castello-per-parlar-valencia
73. 02/03/2015 A female magistrate in Figueres threatens a witness with suspending the proceedings if they speak Catalan.
Source: Complaint received via e-mail by the linguistic complaints section on the website of the Pro-Language Platform in March 2015.
74. 02/03/2015 A lawyer is harassed in a CIE (Foreigner Internment Centre) by the Spanish police for speaking Catalan.
Source: Complaint received via e-mail by the linguistic complaints section on the website of the Pro-Language Platform in March 2015.
75. 04/03/2015 The Catalan Football Federation cancels the licence of six children for failing to have their census registration certificate in Spanish.
Source: <i>The Catalan Football Federation: shameful!</i> Letter to El Punt Avui daily, 11 March 2015. Edition published in the counties of Girona. Culled from the website of the "Ara o mai" [Now or never] association: http://araomai.cat/denuncien-que-la-f-c-futbol-ha-anul%C2%B7lat-unesllicencies-perque-un-document-estava-escrit-en-catala/
76. 10/03/2015 Expelled from the Spanish consulate in Brussels for a document in Catalan.
Source: <i>Expelled from the Spanish consulate in Brussels for a document in Catalan.</i> Vilaweb, 10 March 2015. http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticia/4235277/20150310/expulsat-consolat-espanyolbrusselles-escrit-catala.html <i>The Spanish government justifies the expulsion of a citizen from the consulate in Brussels for a document written in Catalan.</i> Vilaweb, June 9, 2015 http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticia/4363594/20150609/govern-espanyol-justificalexpulsió-consolat-brusselles-ciutadà-escrit-catala.html
77. 10/03/2015 National Police Force officers refuse to process two ID cards in Mollerussa because the supporting official documentation was in Catalan.
Source: National Police Force officers refuse to process two ID card applications in Miralcamp because the application was in Catalan. Segre, 12 March 2015. http://www.segre.com/detall-dela-noticia/article/policies-nacionals-rebutgen-tramitar-dos-dni-de-miralcamp-alestar-en-catala-la-sollicitud/ The day before the news was published, the journalist contacted the Pro-Language Platform to address some legislative aspects and the possible existence of other cases.
78. 27/04/2015 An unemployed woman from Reus is harassed on a course subsidised by the SOC for asking for a course to be given in Catalan.
Source: Complaint received via e-mail by the linguistic complaints section on the website of the Pro-Language Platform in April 2015.
79. 13/05/2015 A teacher from a secondary school in Terrassa makes fun of a student for speaking Catalan.
Source: Direct contact from a person close to the victim by email. <i>A teacher from a secondary school in Terrassa makes fun of a student for speaking Catalan.</i> 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 An application for nationality by a foreign citizen was rejected because part of the documentation had been submitted in Catalan.
Source: Reported by the Department of Social and Family Welfare of the government of Catalonia to the Pro-Language Platform.
81. 18/06/2015 Catalan leads the Higher Court of Justice of Aragon to withdraw the custody of a minor.
Source: Information transmitted to the Pro-Language Platform. Catalan leads the Higher Court of Justice of Aragon to withdraw the custody of a minor. Pro-Language Platform

https://www.plataformallengua.cat/que-fem/noticies/2881/el-catala-motiva-al-tribunal-superior-dejusticia-de-larago-a-retirar-la-custodia-dun-menor
82. 21/06/2015 A doctor threatens to report a patient in Sant Joan Despí for speaking to her in Catalan.
Source: Complaint received via e-mail by the linguistic complaints section on the website of the Pro-Language Platform in June 2015.
82. 21/06/2015 A doctor threatens to report a patient in Sant Joan Despí for speaking to her in Catalan.
Source: <i>The Pro-Language Platform considers that not being attended to in Catalan in a Primary Healthcare Centre is unacceptable</i> https://www.plataforma-llengua.cat/que-fem/noticies/2920/laplataforma-per-la-llengua-considera-inadmissible-no-poder-ser-ates-en-catala-enun-cap The person in question had reported the discrimination through her Facebook page. The Department of Health opens an inquiry into the paediatrician of Torelló who demanded that a patient address him in Spanish. Nació Digital. http://www.naciodigital.cat/noticia/91803/salut/obre/expedient/informatiu/al/pediatre/torello/va/exigir/parlar/castella
84. 05/08/2015 The National Police Force arrests an Argentinian citizen who was speaking Catalan and for disobeying an order to speak Spanish, causing him to miss his flight.
Source: <i>Xufles, llengua i un policia espanyol</i> . El Punt Avui. http://www.elpuntavui.cat/societat/article/5-societat/883544-xufles-llenguai-un-policia-espanyol.html
85. 06/08/2015 A paediatrician humiliates a patient twice for talking to him in Catalan in two towns near Castelló.
Source: <i>Where do the linguistic rights of Catalan speakers stand now?</i> (Publication on the Facebook wall of Daniel Andrés Roig, available at: https://www.facebook.com/daniel.andresroig/posts/413979755455557)
86. 12/09/2015 A National Police Force officer assaults a young man for speaking Catalan at la Jonquera.
Source: <i>The Pro-Language Platform regards the new case of discrimination at la Jonquera as unacceptable</i> https://www.plataforma-llengua.cat/que-fem/noticies/2944/la-plataformaper-la-llengua-considera-intolerable-el-nou-cas-de-discriminacio-a-lajonquera The Pro-Language Platform detected the complaint through the social media.
87. 23/12/2015 A county spokesperson of Joves amb Compromís held by the police for speaking Catalan.
Source: <i>A county spokesperson of Joves amb Compromís held by the police for speaking Catalan</i> . La Veu del País Valencià. http://www.laveupv.com/noticia/17476/%20un-portaveu-comarcal-dejoves-amb-compromis-retingut-per-la-policia-per-parlar-en-valencia

Graphics (2007 – 2016)

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

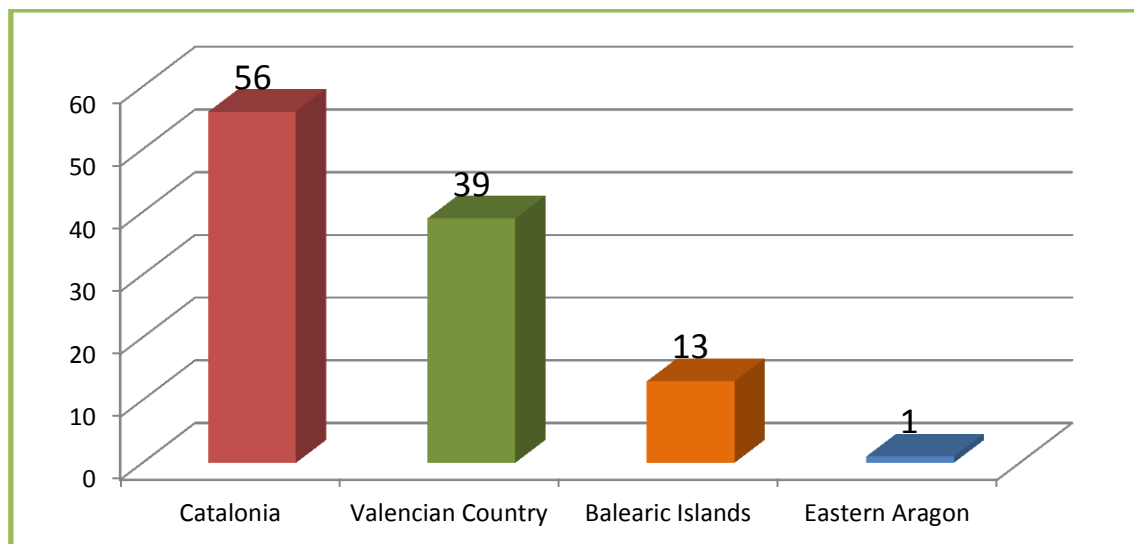


Figure 2 Cases of linguistic discrimination by territory and by administration involved, March 2007 – December 2016

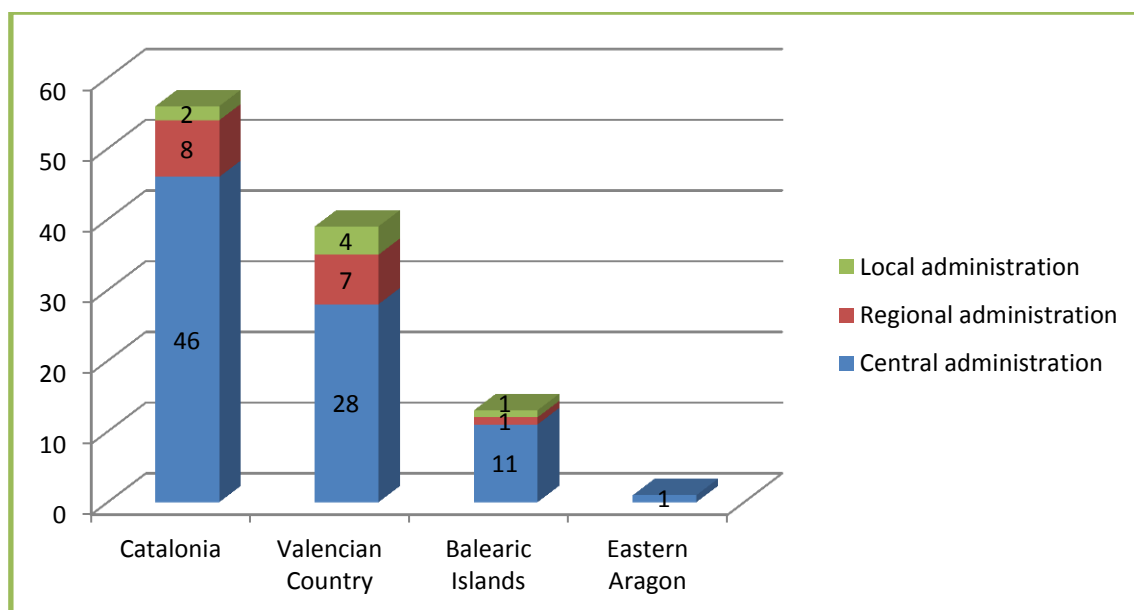


Figure 3 Cases of linguistic discrimination by territory and year, March 2007 – December 2016

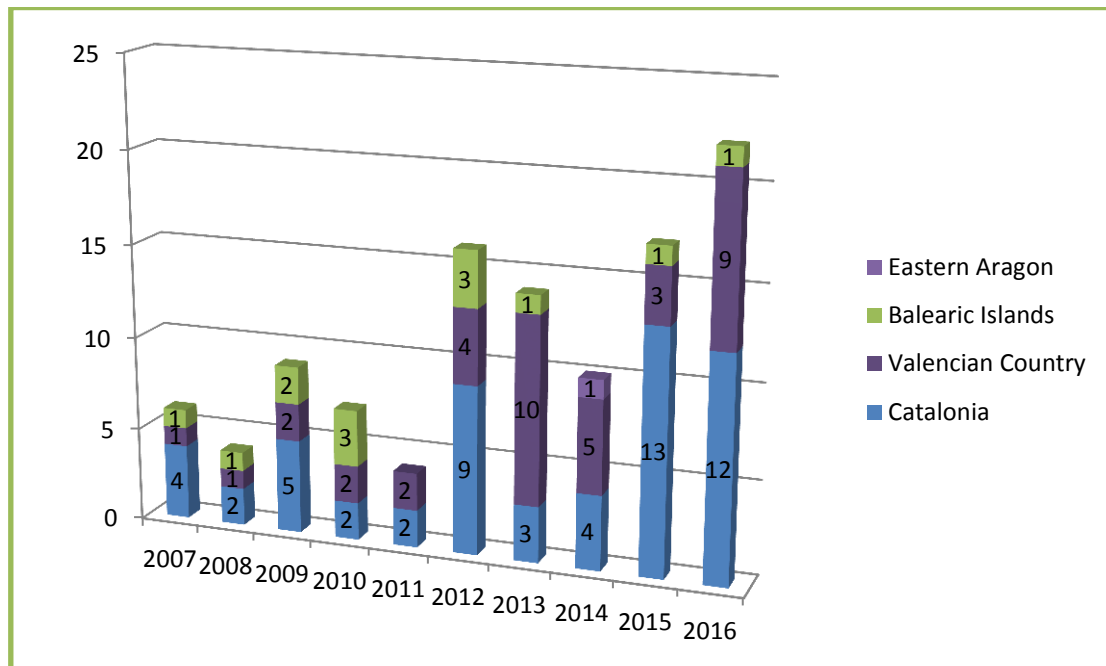
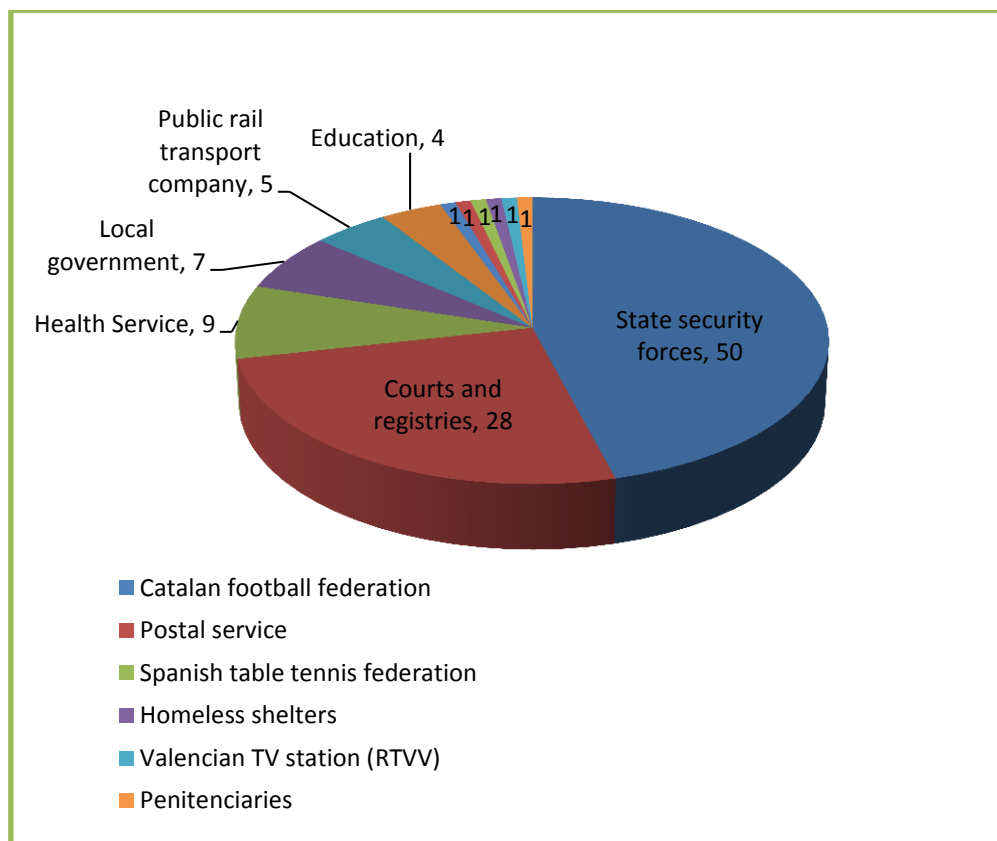


Figure 4 Cases of linguistic discrimination by the organisation or institution involved, March 2007 – December 2016



Conclusions

During the year 2016 the Spanish parliament voted on whether Catalan should be established as a requirement for working in the state administration in Catalan-speaking territories. This hypothetical change would mean that the State is accepting and addressing a structural problem: a lack of qualifications of its personnel in Catalan-speaking lands that can generate situations of serious discrimination. Moreover, acknowledging Catalan as a requirement would make it possible to make further progress in the fulfilment of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, an international commitment taken on by Spain when it ratified this charter more than fifteen years ago. Despite these compelling reasons the proposal (made by the Podemos parliamentary group) encountered the opposition of the PP, PSOE and Ciutadans, which together form a very vast majority in both legislative houses. In the upper house, the proposal was only seconded by 14% of the senators.

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

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

improvement, as would have been the case of training court workers to understand and speak Catalan in the territories in which the latter is the autochthonous and official language.

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

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